

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, April 22, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. 10 East 14th., St., New York, April 22nd., 1877. My dear Mrs. Bell:

I have left my friends out on the back piazza enjoying the calm still beauty of this summer-like evening. I have come up to write to you. I am afraid you will think me neglectful in not answering your two welcome letters before. Indeed I have written but the note never left the house and since then we have been busy working at our summer dresses. Such dreadful work Mamma finds it, aided though she be by two dressmakers and seamstress. I wonder if you have escaped all this worry by going out to Canada.

Alec. will have told you all about our journey here and Mr. Grey's concert, but you may like to know what Mamma thought of Alec's Providence lecture. She says she saw there was a hiatus somewhere in the arrangements that Alec once or twice seemed a little embarrassed, and the lecture was not quite in his best style, still it was very interesting and she thought the whole thing quite successful. She could hear the voice and music distinctly and felt sure every one else did as she had one of the worst seats. We were very glad to see Alec. last Sunday looking well and bright and more hopeful than he has been for some time. He lectures this Friday at New Haven and I am going on to stay with him at my cousin Mrs. Salisbury's. She and her husband are much interested in Alec. and his work, and are going to invite a number of the scientific gentleman of the place to meet him. I am rather frightened at the idea of going among them, I know Mrs. Salisbury but slightly and have never been at her house, but anticipate a nice long ride to Boston with Alec. afterwards so do not mind the visit so much.

I wonder how you and Mr. Bell are at present, it is a long time since I have heard of you but presume Mr. Bell is off on some lecturing tour. Do you never go with him? I should

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think you would find the house lonely while he is away, perhaps fear tramps. It would be very pleasant if Mr. Bell could come to Boston on a lecturing tour and bring you only you would have to come pretty soon or we shall be in Washington and miss seeing you. Mamma expects to go to Cambridge the first of May when the gentleman living in our house leaves it. My sisters have a vacation of a few days just at that time so we shall all be together for a while. Then I suppose we shall be again scattered abroad.

Do you hear anything from Mr. Symonds, I saw in a paper today a notice of a Mr. Bell tea planter in the valley of Dehra Doon Himalaya, India I thought he might be a relative of yours, he had sent some stuffed birds to Australia. I beg your pardon for c o r ossing and will say Goodnight with love to Mr. Bell and regards to the Misses Symonds,

Affectionately, Mabel.